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The Cabinet.

The Cabinet of Major MCKINLEY will contain one figure of the first importance, JOHN SHERMAN. Mr. SHERMAN's reputation has been obtained in other fields than that of foreign affairs, and he has sometimes seemed to want that steady courage and that consistency of purpose which are desired in perfect statesmen, and possessed in full, probably, only by Mugwumps and other critics of statesmen. He is about to come to the culminating honor of a long public career. There is every reason to believe that he is a thoroughly patriotic American. Both his temperament and his experience guard him against that excess of self-belief which prevents a man from doing justice to the motives of those who do not agree with him, that intellectual obstinacy which is the main defect in the otherwise attractive and wholly sturdy character of the Hon. RICHARD OLNEY. It might have been wished that Major MCKINLEY should appoint the Hon. THOMAS BRACKETT to be Secretary of State; but probably neither Mr. REED nor Major MCKINLEY could have been induced to favor such an appointment. Mr. REED has what many students of American political institutions consider the most powerful post that can be occupied by a citizen. The eminence of Mr. SHERMAN is not unworthy of the traditions of the State Department; and as foreign affairs have for some time had, and are likely to have for some time yet, an importance which they have scarcely had since Washington's second Administration, Mr. SHERMAN will have the opportunity to win new distinction.

The rest of the Cabinet list seems to be made up, substantially. It confirms the theory that the Cabinet has become and has had to become a collection of men of not the highest political influence, and chosen for personal or local political reasons, sometimes hard for a mere observer to understand. There is no reason why such men should not be capable administrators and sound advisers, but the best political talent will continue to be found, on the whole, in Congress; and it cannot be induced to leave the stirring, varied, and thoroughly political life of that body for the doubtful and often obscure career of a member of the Cabinet.

It is a schoolboy's exercise to suggest a Cabinet composed of the wise and good, the most famous and fruitful political genius of the country. It is good for the country, however, that Congress shall continue to be the grand scene of political life, and that the Cabinet shall be safe but not brilliant.

The Committee on Monsters.

The Joint Legislative Committee to investigate trusts is expected to be in these parts in a day or two. Before it comes, it ought to try to learn some of the rudiments of contemporary trusts and mythology. The letter sent in the name of the committee to the State Commissioner of Labor Statistics last Thursday, showed a total ignorance of the principles of the subject. Among the information which the Commissioner was asked to give was a statement of the prices of the products of trusts, and of the number of laborers employed, and the wages paid by trusts in 1892 and now.

Mr. LEXOW might as well have asked about the flattening of the earth at the poles. What difference does it make whether the result of a trust has been the cheapening of the article which it produces? It is the first story in trust mythology and folk lore that a trust is a monstrous, horrible and evil creature. No matter what it does. No matter what it doesn't do. It is wicked and is assumed to be wicked; and no reduction of prices can make anything else. Who cares what it pays or what how many people it pays them? It is bad in itself and must be suppressed.

Does Mr. LEXOW imagine that the majority of people who oppose trusts do so because they know or care anything about the facts in the case? The denunciation of trusts is only a part of the general cant about the money power and plutocracy; only a chapter in the great gospel of humbug. If trusts put down by fifty per cent. the prices of the things they control, and put up by a hundred per cent. the price of the labor which they buy, the howlers against them would not diminish their howls by a single denismiquaver. The trouble about trusts is that they are supposed, erroneously enough in many cases, to make money for their proprietors; and for a very noisy class of philosophers that is the unpardonable sin.

The Gold Reserve.

It has been surrounded by a superstition that has been responsible for much of the financial troubles which have afflicted the country during the past three years. After the sum of \$95,000,000 in gold was provided in 1878 by Secretary SHERMAN to insure the resumption of specie payments, gold remained so plenty in the Treasury that the idea arose that the fund established for the specific purpose of being paid out in redeeming greenbacks must be kept intact, and that taking a dollar of it in accordance with this original purpose was unpatriotic, and giving a dollar of it in exchange for a greenback was an official proclamation of danger to the public credit. This conception of the reserve as an inviolable lump of uselessness gradually expanded into an imaginary law making the \$100,000,000 an absolute requirement. For the latter idea numerous journals contended for a long time very strenuously, the Evening Post, whose persistence was converted from ignorance to mendacity, being the most conspicuous. It has been abandoned within a couple of years only. When the remaining misconception of the gold fund is dispersed entirely, and its intended function understood, a crushing weight will be lifted off the shoulders of our commerce, and the first preliminary step will be taken toward a sane consideration of our finances.

The figure of \$100,000,000 for the Treasury's greenback-redeeming fund of gold is purely conventional. The theory of it, however, is that it is large enough, to Treasury gold is desired for export, to take, by redemption, sufficient greenbacks from circulation to contract the currency to the point where no more greenbacks shall be offered, and the withdrawal of gold shall be arrested. Judging by experience, \$100,000,000 is more than enough to accomplish this. The panic that followed the first attempt to retire the greenbacks in 1866 became severe enough to stop it after the retirement of \$75,000,000; \$29,000,000 sufficed in 1878, and \$19,000,000 in 1881. Less than \$100,000,000 of gold in the Treasury means, therefore, that the contraction of the currency has begun, and every further drop, instead of being a sign of danger, calling, in the name of patriotism, for greenback holders to refrain from depleting the reserve further, is a step toward the point where contraction will cease and equilibrium will be reestablished.

Of course this financial system rests on the rational supposition that the Government is not being hurried into bankruptcy through the necessities of an income too small to pay its expenses, and that consequently the greenbacks thus paid into the Treasury will steadily increase until the gold drawn out in interest and exchange again. In the crises of the last three years, the betrayers of the general welfare, the men deserving of public contempt and condemnation, have not been the greenback holders who asked for gold, but the statesmen who, as a defence of their incompetence as tariff makers, deliberately maintained their tariff for deficit only. GROVER CLEVELAND and WILLIAM L. WILSON are the men.

An Impossible Undertaking.

The following reference to a proposition now under discussion among a few men distinguished almost invariably as free republicans, public sentiment, we take from the New York Times:

"At a good Government Club dinner the other night Mr. WHEELER H. PIERCE said: 'The time has now arrived for fully and thoroughly organizing a municipal party.' By this he meant that the time has come for effecting an organization whose aim would be to divorce city government from party politics, and bring about a non-partisan, businesslike administration of municipal affairs."

There is no more reason for "divorcing city government from party politics" than for making the Government of the State non-partisan; and practically the one is as possible as the other. It is fortunate that in this republic all party lines are established with reference to national questions, for thereby is strengthened the bond by which the Union is held together. Otherwise there would be political confusion. Every State and every town would have its independent parties, obscuring national questions or diverting attention from them; and when Federal elections occurred there would be political disorganization so far as they were concerned. Parties would lose their dignity.

The difference of view concerning government which makes partisan divisions includes all government, as much that of a city and a State as of the Federal Government. Our political system starts with the township, proceeds to the State, and thence extends to the Union; and it is consistent and interdependent throughout. Non-partisan city government is not only a humbug, but also a violation of salutary political principle.

"Good Government." The very name as the designation of a political party, municipal, State, or Federal, simply begs the question, for the genesis of parties comes from conflicting opinions as to what constitutes "good government." What party goes in for bad government as an end proposed to the people? All of politics is in the question what is good and what is bad in government; and disagreement as to it is the sole reason for the existence of contending parties.

British Misrule in India.

The almost complete ignoring by the English papers of the facts brought out in the Indian National Congress that opened its annual proceedings in Madras, Dec. 28, is noticeable. It is due to unwillingness to let the English people know the truth about what is going on in that great dependency.

Such knowledge unquestionably would be likely to create a feeling of uneasiness, and even of genuine alarm, that might at any moment turn to panic. It would be panic on the Stock Exchange, at the India Office, the War Office, and in every department of the Government; for the next great trouble in India, whenever it comes, will shake the British power to its foundations. But it is doubtful if the ostrich-with-its-head-in-the-sand policy is wise. The people of India have substantial grievances against their English rulers; and these rulers, with inexplicable fatuity, refuse to grant any redress or even to consider the subject seriously.

The resolutions presented at this last Indian National Congress, which met at Calcutta, are nearly the same as those passed at its previous meetings. They relate to the improvement of the system of taxation, and in which the revenues are spent; the inequality of the treatment of native and Englishmen in the matter of the civil-service examinations; the necessity for the separation of the judicial from the executive functions; and above all to the scheme of education for the civil service by which East Indians are excluded from the higher posts, in direct violation of the Queen's proclamations, and to the iniquitous salt tax. While the Congress goes no further than passing resolutions presenting the demands of the sorely tried Indian subjects of England, the evils so loudly complained of will go on indefinitely. However grievous the wrongs may be for the Indians, the English Government seems to be satisfied.

On the third day of the Congress a resolution was passed declaring that the famine was due to the great poverty of the people, resulting from the drain of wealth by excessive taxation of the Indians, and from the social history, and for a moralist's disquisition on the weakness, the perversity, and the inconsistency of human nature.

Mr. MAGOWAN has been prominent as one of the richest and most energetic of the manufacturers of Trenton; and as Mayor of the capital of New Jersey his administration was distinguished for its efficiency. His consequence was so great that at one time he was a promising candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor of the State. He is, in fact, a man who was esteemed by his hard-headed business associates and his political friends as remarkable for strength of character and for coolness and sagacity in the conduct of practical affairs; yet, actually, he has proved himself to be the helpless victim of erratic and vagarious sentimental impulses which have now brought him into an apparently inextricable matrimonial complication.

In August, 1895, Mr. MAGOWAN went from Trenton to Oklahoma under circumstances which justified the inference that his errand was to get a divorce under the

warning. The only hope of saving the situation before it is too late seems to be in the bare possibility that the English people may take alarm in time, and insist that some measure of attention and redress shall be given to Indian grievances, especially those that are most widespread and that affect the largest number of people.

Such a grievance is the salt tax. In hardly anything else have the ill effects of British administration of India been more strikingly exhibited than in the greater difficulty of salt at the present time, as compared with the beginning of the century. In 1800 salt sold in the Madras Presidency for nine annas, or about twenty-eight cents the maund of eighty-two pounds; in 1890 its price was two rupees, eleven annas, or about one dollar and thirty cents. In Bombay in 1800 it sold at eight annas, about twenty-five cents the maund; and in 1890 at two rupees, eight annas, about one dollar and twenty cents. Between those two dates, through various causes, the purchasing power of the people had diminished, so that really the burden of price was greater than it appeared. The consequence was seen in the decrease of the industries into which salt enters as a necessity; in the deterioration of the application of the salt in the dyeing and tanning industries; in the increased poverty and oppression, and provoked protests even from those charged with the administration. But all went unheeded as usual, and it is this unwillingness to move or act that constitutes the gravity of the situation for England in India. Each Government and each Administration trusts to luck and hopes things will last its time, and hence follows out Lord SALISBURY's policy of drifting, whither no one knows.

England and the Treaty.

A leading argument of those who oppose the amendments made to the arbitration treaty by the Senate Foreign Committee, is that Great Britain will not accept them. If this were true it ought not to carry the slightest weight, provided the amendments need to be made. But the prediction itself is sheer assumption, and, as the case stands, it is likely to prove false.

It is only necessary to look back at the negotiations of last summer, to infer that the disposition of Lord SALISBURY was to diminish the chances of arriving at binding conclusions, save in purely pecuniary matters, while Mr. OLNEY's aim was in the other direction. Hence it is quite premature to assume that Lord SALISBURY will be offended at the restriction of the field of arbitration made by the Senate amendments.

It is true that the early comments of a portion of the London press disapproved of the amendments; but already second thoughts have come to the St. James's Gazette, which says that "should President CLEVELAND or his successor ask us to accept an amended treaty, it would be just as well to do so, and thereby again show how much we wish to keep on friendly terms with the United States." We have no doubt that similar views will prevail elsewhere in the London press, as soon as it is fully understood that the alternative is a radically amended treaty or no treaty at all.

There is, in fact, no need of hurrying about this document. There is no quarrel between the two countries that demands an immediate reference to arbitration. Were the end of the session on the fourth of March to be followed by a long gap in the meetings of the Senate, there might be more reason for haste; but inasmuch as that body will come together again at once in extra session, it can carry on the discussion without a break.

The members of the Senate to take all the time it requires for careful deliberation and to consider the treaty wholly with a view to American interests, leaving Great Britain to take care of her own.

The Excessive Taxation of Ireland.

The holding of a mass meeting in Boston on Monday night to protest against the taxes imposed upon Ireland was a significant event. The large gathering was in Faneuil Hall, and the presiding officer, Mr. RICHARD H. DANA, referred to the fact that, 127 years before, his great-grandfather, of the same name, had presided over a meeting to protest against Great Britain's taxation of America with out representation, at the beginning of an agitation which ended in the establishment of the United States.

The question will perhaps be asked, what right these citizens of Boston have in meddling in questions of local revenue which belong to Great Britain and Ireland. To this question President CLEVELAND of Tufts College made answer: "By the same right that England has to interfere with Turkey by her numerous outrages and rapine on her Armenian subjects," he citizens not hesitating to meet and denounce such outrages. Certainly the account which Mr. JOHN E. REDMOND, a distinguished Irishman here, gave of the existing woes of Ireland, with "her towns and cities decaying because the industries of the country have been suppressed," justifies pity on this side of the water for the fate of that beautiful island. In addition, as ex-Mayor BANCROFT of Cambridge urged, the Royal Commission that has been examining the subject has been unjustly treated by an excess of nearly \$15,000,000 a year. Only five out of the fifteen members were Irishmen.

The sentiment of the meeting, in fact, took the form of resolutions that the report of the Royal Commission on the redistribution of the present system ought to be carried into effect. The Faneuil Hall mass meeting is a noteworthy sign of the times.

The Matrimonial Complications of Mr. Magowan.

The marriage and divorce complications of Mr. FRANK A. MAGOWAN of Trenton afford material for a curious chapter in our social history, and for a moralist's disquisition on the weakness, the perversity, and the inconsistency of human nature.

Mr. MAGOWAN has been prominent as one of the richest and most energetic of the manufacturers of Trenton; and as Mayor of the capital of New Jersey his administration was distinguished for its efficiency. His consequence was so great that at one time he was a promising candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor of the State. He is, in fact, a man who was esteemed by his hard-headed business associates and his political friends as remarkable for strength of character and for coolness and sagacity in the conduct of practical affairs; yet, actually, he has proved himself to be the helpless victim of erratic and vagarious sentimental impulses which have now brought him into an apparently inextricable matrimonial complication.

In August, 1895, Mr. MAGOWAN went from Trenton to Oklahoma under circumstances which justified the inference that his errand was to get a divorce under the

accommodating divorce laws of that Territory. Two years before, while spending the summer in the country, he met Mr. and Mrs. J. ALBERT BARNES of Ohio. He engaged BARNES as a handsome salary to superintend one of his large rubber factories at Trenton; and Mr. and Mrs. BARNES took up their residence next door to Mr. MAGOWAN's house. Before long Mr. MAGOWAN's attention to Mrs. BARNES began to attract attention, until her husband forbade his visiting her, and finally, after a violent altercation on the subject, Mr. BARNES left his employment or was turned out of it. Subsequently MAGOWAN had BARNES arrested on the charge that he had threatened him with a pistol.

It was after these occurrences that Mr. MAGOWAN made his journey to Oklahoma, and thus afforded good ground for inferring that he was after a divorce from his wife. He obtained the divorce on the plea of incompatibility, the fact of his continuing to employ BARNES, MAGOWAN's failure to show his admiration for Mrs. BARNES, and her natural objection to it. Mrs. BARNES also obtained an Oklahoma divorce, alleging cruelty as the cause. BARNES was again arrested on charges made by MAGOWAN. MAGOWAN was sued by BARNES for heavy damages for alienating his wife's affections; but, according to report, the suit was settled recently by MAGOWAN's paying a part of the amount demanded. In June last MAGOWAN obtained a marriage license in Chicago and married Mrs. BARNES at Milwaukee; but the ceremony was repeated at Philadelphia only two or three weeks ago, with a view to escaping legal disabilities. Now comes the news from Trenton that MAGOWAN and Mrs. BARNES have quarrelled and separated, that he has returned to the original and lawful Mrs. MAGOWAN, and been received and forgiven by her for the sake of the children whose welfare had been so long forgotten by him in his infatuation for his neighbor's wife. It is also said that business troubles and embarrassment came upon him because of his scandalous conduct; but it is not necessary to recite them here.

Mr. MAGOWAN has gone back to his faithful wife on the theory that his marriage with Mrs. BARNES was made void by a recent judicial decision; but her lawyer contends that she is indisputably his legal wife, and apparently she is determined to insist on her rights as such.

Mr. MAGOWAN, therefore, is in a remarkable and most uncomfortable position, but whatever further distress awaits him will be only his just due. Unfortunately, his blameless wife and the mother of his children must carry the load along with him.

The opportunities for such perversity afforded by the Oklahoma divorce laws cannot be discussed intelligently until it is decided whether we wish to contribute to make the law for MAGOWAN to go astray, or really oppose the obstacle to his vagarious propensities, that suddenly brought him up standing.

We feel ourselves authorized to announce that the Hon. WILLIAM LYONS STRONG will be a candidate for the office of Mayor of the Greater New York.

We suppose that President MCKINLEY will appoint a new Minister to Spain. The office is an important one, more so at this time than ever before; and the responsibilities of it may be increased during the incoming Administration. The man who gets it ought to be well qualified to perform the duties, a just and patriotic man, fitted with the American spirit, efficient in diplomacy, versed in Spanish metaphysics, possessing a good knowledge of the Spanish character, and observant of the amenities of the polite world. He ought to be a man of serene disposition, and of the right stuff, good nerve, good mettle, neither overbold nor easily scared. He ought to be able to speak at least two languages, the overbold and the Spanish, so as to be easily understood, omitting all unnecessary verbiage. If President MCKINLEY shall pick out such a man for Minister to Spain, it will be a good thing for him.

Our friend E. S. STICKLES of this town filled the office in distinguished way between twenty and thirty years ago, during GRANT's first term as President; but he wouldn't take it now, even if it were offered to him. He wants to be Governor of Cuba; but it is our opinion that some powerful Gen. Cárter or Don GARCIA would be better suited for the place.

We do not know whether the Hon. ANDREW D. WHITE would accept an offer from President MCKINLEY if the Madrid mission were named to him. He is of the right politics, an experienced diplomatist, a scholar in many a European language, since last he has been in the United States, less frequent attendance at banquets in that city. J. F. O'Dell, who is a banker of Chicago, is said to have been connected to the Spanish mission. Mr. O'Dell, at all events, has claimed to know a number of Madrid politicians. Mr. O'Dell thought he had a test that would prove the matter, and he was right. He was asked in detail the character of every man who was in a private drawer in a vault in his bank, together with some of the names of the men who had been in the vault. He asked the medium to tell him what the answer would be, and he was right. He was asked in detail the character of every man who was in a private drawer in a vault in his bank, together with some of the names of the men who had been in the vault. He asked the medium to tell him what the answer would be, and he was right.

Two years ago last December Mr. GAGE as a Chicago banker proposed this way for the Government to keep out of the currency business:

"(1) Authorize the issue of \$250,000,000 of 24 per cent. bonds payable at such time as Congress may direct, and have the amount of each issue subscribed at par. Accept in payment United States legal tender notes or Treasury notes, the same to be cancelled. (2) Amend the National Bank act so that banks can issue note to the main value of the notes issued at a security for circulation. Reduce the tax on circulating notes to one-half of 1 per cent."

When Mr. GAGE gets into the Treasury, far away from his bank counter, it is likely that he will see this matter in a different light. Then he will probably conclude that the popular objection for the last few years, that the Government was not to be trusted with the money, and self-sufficiency as to induce Congress to make a present of the \$250,000,000 to the banks outright.

The czar's desire for a son and heir has been again freshened. The German Emperor suffers from a chronic ailment, and his heir is a lad of 15. The Russian Emperor is ailing, and his heir is a lad of 15. The Austrian Emperor is ailing, and his heir is a lad of 15. The King of Portugal is ailing, and his heir is a lad of 15. The King of Spain is ailing, and his heir is a lad of 15. The King of Italy is ailing, and his heir is a lad of 15. The King of Greece is ailing, and his heir is a lad of 15. The King of Serbia is ailing, and his heir is a lad of 15. The King of Rumania is ailing, and his heir is a lad of 15. The King of Bulgaria is ailing, and his heir is a lad of 15. The King of Montenegro is ailing, and his heir is a lad of 15. The King of Albania is ailing, and his heir is a lad of 15. The King of Macedonia is ailing, and his heir is a lad of 15. The King of Thracia is ailing, and his heir is a lad of 15. The King of Asia Minor is ailing, and his heir is a lad of 15. 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